



Local Food and Agriculture

Strategy One

Increase the amount of food produced inside city limits.

Strategy Two

Support the development of the food shed in New Mexico.

Strategy Three

Incorporate food and agriculture in planning, landscaping and design.

Strategy Four

Engage every City department in promoting local food production and consumption.

Food and agriculture account for over 20% of greenhouse gas emissions by city residents. These emissions come from burning fossil fuels in order to grow, process and deliver food. (Sources: M. Murphy, *New Mexico's Foodshed Alliance*, Southwest Climate Change Network, March 30, 2009, southwestclimatechange.org/feature-articles/foodshed-alliance; C. L. Weber and H. S. Mathews, *Food-Miles and the Relative Climate Impacts of Food Choices in the United States*, Environ. Sci. Technol. 2008, 42, 3508–3513; D. Pimentel, *Energy Inputs in Food Crop Production in Developing and Developed Nations*, Energies 2009, 2, 1-24; *Climate Change 2007: Synthesis Report*, editors R.K. Pachauri and A. Reisinger, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Geneva, Switzerland, 2007.)

In recognition of this, representatives from the Food and Agriculture workgroup coordinated with the University of New Mexico and the City of Albuquerque to create a “FoodPrint”—a carbon footprint of our food and agriculture infrastructure.

The Food and Agriculture workgroup believes the Plan thoroughly addresses the goals set forth for 2020 and if reevaluated every three years, will put the City on track for meeting these goals as they relate to the newly built infrastructure.

The Food and Agriculture workgroup recommends an energy savings target of 25% from 2000 levels by the year 2020. We urge the City to move forward with the FoodPrint calculation and more accurately estimate climate impacts of the food we eat. This will allow us to create a new food infrastructure baseline and start measuring these reductions.

The City should enact the codes needed to accomplish the Food and Agriculture workgroup’s strategies as soon as possible in order to can create a baseline from which to measure achievements and monitor progress in meeting the 2012, 2020 and 2050 greenhouse gas reduction goals outlined in the Plan.

Energy consumption in existing food production is an issue that must be thoroughly addressed. The best way to create significant energy reductions and code compliance is through a thorough look at incentives that provide economic assistance to local growers and food retailers and encourage consumers to buy locally produced food.

Local Food and Agriculture Working Group Principles

- Food accounts for a significant amount of emissions by a city’s inhabitants. It is critical that food and agriculture become carbon-efficient.
- It is problematic to mandate benchmarks without the technological avenue to meet those mandates.
- Technology always improves. As it does, carbon-neutral food production will become more technologically and economically viable.
- Achieving carbon neutrality requires the identification of both short- and long-term goals. Identifying the short-term goals and the long-term goals provides the City and the public with a reasonable framework to achieve carbon neutrality.
- We view the approaches recommended by the Food and Agriculture Workgroup as a local form of homeland security.



1. Increase the amount of food produced inside City limits.

Educate city residents on the benefits and methods of urban gardening.

- Provide gardening workshops through community and senior centers, libraries and neighborhood associations.
- Include gardening in curriculums for City-sponsored after-school and summer camp programs.
- Help community organizations to develop a network of garden educators who will help them acquire resources and maximize effectiveness.

Support the development of commercial urban farming and food production.

- Establish a task force to develop the value chain for commercial greenhouses inside the city.
- Support workforce training for urban farming and food processing jobs.
- Give incentives for high-density farming inside the city (e.g., low-cost land and removing impermeable surface impact fees for greenhouses and unused alleys).
- Establish a “buy local” preference for City food purchases.

2. Support the development of the food shed in New Mexico.

- Establish a “buy local” campaign that encourages local residents to buy food produced within 300 miles of Albuquerque.
- Establish a “buy New Mexico” preference for all City food purchases.
- Offer the City’s collaboration to the Governor in implementing the recommendations on agriculture and forestry, published in the *New Mexico Climate Change Advisory Group Final Report: Final Report December 2006*, available at: nmclimatechange.us.

3. Incorporate food and agriculture in planning, landscaping and design.

Use land use policies to support food production.

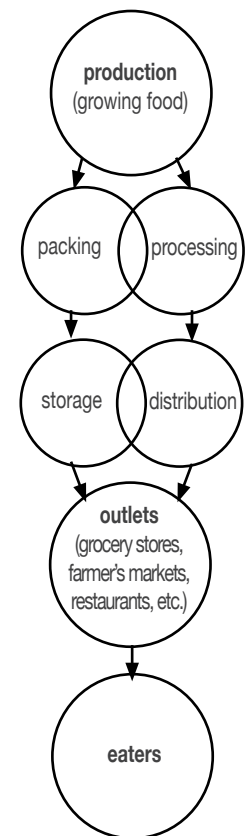
- Work with other government agencies to preserve agricultural lands.
- Require set-asides for community gardens in new developments (as is currently done for parks).
- Create an inter-agency task force to coordinate local food planning.
- Modify zone codes to allow agriculture land and open space to incorporate alternative energy structures such as solar and wind generation equipment.

Develop a comprehensive edible landscaping program for City facilities.

- Require all new City facilities to include a minimum of 25% edible landscaping (green roofs, for example).
- Phase in edible landscaping to existing City facilities—at least 25% of all City facilities should have edible landscaping by 2020.

What is the urban farming value chain?

A value chain represents the steps taken in providing a product. The value chain explains the costs and impacts of making that product.



A sustainable food system's value chain considers the physical, economic, political and socio-cultural impacts of the entire system.

(Illustration adopted from Ilana Blankman's *Farm to Table*. Readers may refer to www.farmtotablenm.org for more information.)



- Engage the Mayor's Office of Volunteer Engagement (MOVE) to develop a volunteer corps to assist city landscapers in harvesting and distributing edible landscaping produce to low-income communities and food banks.

Encourage edible landscaping on residential, commercial and industrial properties.

- Provide incentives to property owners to add edible landscaping on their land similar to those given for xeriscaping.
- Offer the services of the volunteer harvesting corps to harvest unwanted produce from private properties.
- Prorate impermeable surface impact fees for property owners who garden relative to the garden surface area.
- Provide tax incentives to property owners who build passive solar, cold-season hoop houses, greenhouses or cold frames.

4. Engage every City department in promoting local food production and consumption.

Develop an executive order or budget directive that directs City departments to use existing resources to develop a list/plan of actions that each department can take to promote of local food production. The list or plan should be submitted to the Mayor and City Council as soon as possible for the upcoming fiscal year. This list should include activities that facilitate local food production, including community gardens, increase edible landscape and encourage communities to take responsibility for the vitality and food sovereignty of their neighborhoods.

Department	Recommended Executive Order / Budget Directive
ABQ Ride	Ensure that routes pass by farmers' markets; add extra trips during farmers' market hours. Display information about gardening and buying local foods on screens inside of busses.
Animal Welfare	Pair adoption events with farmers' markets. Offer urban livestock care classes. Create small gardens at City-operated animal facilities.
Aviation	Use local foods in Sunport Concession purchasing. Have a seasonal fresh fruit and vegetable stand inside the terminal with local produce.
Cultural Services	Use the Heritage Farm to grow fruits and vegetables for use in the BioParks' restaurants and catering services. Favor vendors using local ingredients as events vendors. Dedicate a portion of BioPark educational activities to the value of agriculture and local foods. Make urban agriculture a regular focus of the Q-Hour. Highlight seasonal displays of gardening books at all libraries.
Economic Development	Ensure that Economic Development department (EDD) staff have training in agribusiness. Change the Job Trainings Incentive program to make it available to agribusinesses that are focused on local sales. Develop and disseminate a fact sheet on how EDD programs benefit agribusiness. Create an Agribusiness Investment Tax Credit similar to the Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit. Make agribusiness for local consumption a priority for EDD expansion assistance.
Environmental Health	Continue to assist entrepreneurs who are developing local food processing businesses. Catalogue gardens, urban farms and local food processing and evaluate associated environmental impacts.
Family and Community Services	Incorporate small gardens into early childhood development centers. Reach out and encourage urban food and agribusinesses to participate in Mayor's Youth Jobs Initiative. Add gardening classes to community and senior center offerings; establish community gardens at each City community center and multigenerational center.



Department	Recommended Executive Order / Budget Directive
Family and Community Services (cont'd)	<p>Ensure that agricultural education is a component of City-sponsored after school programs (promote organizations and schools that include gardening education in the funding application process, for example).</p> <p>Create programs that enable edible landscaping and box gardens in all public housing.</p> <p>Encourage recipients of home rehabilitation loans to include edible landscaping and/or garden facilities and provide helpful resource lists and/or fact sheets.</p> <p>Recruit seniors to provide gardening classes for neighborhood residents and/or create gardening groups through the City's multigenerational centers.</p>
Finance and Administrative Services	<p>Create a purchasing priority for all City food purchases to buy from local producers. Ensure that the City's senior food buyers are trained on local food production and complete a tour of urban farms and food processors.</p> <p>Include locally produced value-added food products in the City's online store (www.albuquerquecitystore.com).</p>
Fire	Empower fire department staff to organize community gardens attached to their fire stations.
Human Resources	<p>Amend duties of staff in certain departments to include gardening tasks in job descriptions.</p> <p>Offer employee tuition assistance to achieve Master Gardener status or other training in local food production.</p>
Office of Budget and Management	Specifically list food sovereignty (the right of a community to define its own food and agriculture systems) as a goal in the City's strategic plan.
Mayor's Office	<p>Engage the Mayor's Office of Volunteer Engagement (MOVE) to facilitate the creation of volunteer groups that harvest produce from City and private properties.</p> <p>Enhance existing information about agriculture on the City's Albuquerque Green website, Agriculture and Forestry section or create a stand-alone section just for agriculture (refer to http://www.cabq.gov/albuquerquegreen/see-it-green-reporting for more information).</p> <p>Focus the City's forestry initiative on planting fruit trees.</p> <p>Add food and farming as an issue category on the MOVE website (refer to http://www.cabq.gov/move) and have MOVE do outreach to farms and gardens to use this resource.</p> <p>Create a City Gardener position.</p>
Municipal Development	<p>Put edible landscaping into all new developments.</p> <p>Include water harvesting for use in edible landscaping in all new development projects.</p> <p>Use existing City landscapers to maintain landscaping and seek out volunteers for any additional work.</p> <p>Consider planting edible trees in new landscaping, streets and parks. Collaborate with the Senior Affairs department and MOVE to develop a tree picking program.</p> <p>Similar to the City's public arts program (1% for the arts), develop a "1% for public food" program that funds community and regional garden projects</p>
Parks and Recreation	<p>Add gardening projects and activities to summer camp programs run by Parks and Recreation department.</p> <p>Continue to encourage farming and community gardening on open-space land.</p> <p>Include local foods in events and programs.</p>
Planning	Help to identify land available for farming (refer to strategy #3 for additional recommendations).
Senior Affairs	<p>Create gardening/gleaning programs at the City's senior centers.</p> <p>Enlist seniors to teach gardening classes and volunteer with school gardens. Coordinate these efforts with the State's New Mexico Aging and Long-Term Services department (http://www.nmaging.state.nm.us).</p>
Solid Waste	Separate green waste and develop a compost program, then offer the compost at low cost to local farmers and gardeners.